

Remarks

Claims 1 - 31 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1 – 28 have been indicated as allowed.

Claims 29 – 31 were previously rejected.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lange et al in view of Baba. It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Lange et al and Baba is not proper as the combination fails to yield every limitation of the claims. For example, neither Lange et al nor Baba disclose or suggest a floor surface maintenance machine which is powered across the floor surface during operation, nor a linear actuator which moves a portion of the surface maintenance machine toward the floor surface while the machine is powered across the floor surface.

Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

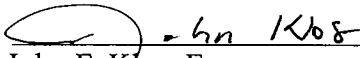
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the pending claims.

Please direct any questions regarding this application to John Klos at (612) 321-2806.

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Respectfully submitted,
Tennant Company, by its attorneys

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